

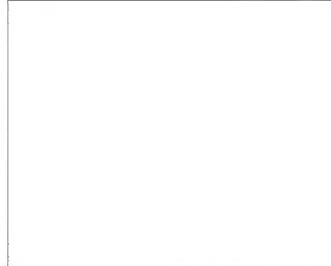
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1/10/54*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT 125 Millimeter AT Gun



DATE DISTR. 30 Mar 1954

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1. The 125 mm AT gun used by the Bulgarian Army today is based on, and is an improvement of, the Soviet AT gun of 1945. The characteristics of this weapon are:

- a. Weight . . . . . 605 kilograms (net)
- b. Weight of gun in combat condition . . . . . 1,205 kilograms.  
(This includes caisson, with projectiles and detonators)
- c. Length of barrel . . . . . 1.20 meters
- d. Thickness of armor . . . . . 3 millimeters
- e. Breech is of "clino-vertical" type
- f. Ejector throws shellcase, after firing, a distance of 75 cm.
- g. Wheels are 90 cm in diameter, including tires
- h. Gun has horizontal and vertical traverse
- i. Gun is horse drawn, requiring two pairs of horses.
- j. Gun fires eight (8) rounds a minute.
- k. Range is 1500 meters
- l. Destructive efficacy is 500 to 600 meters.

2. The gun is served by a seven man gun crew:

- a. Commander (chief of gun section)
- b. Gun-pointer
- c. Loader
- d. Gun-server
- e. Shell-carrier
- f. Driver (konevod)
- g. Second driver

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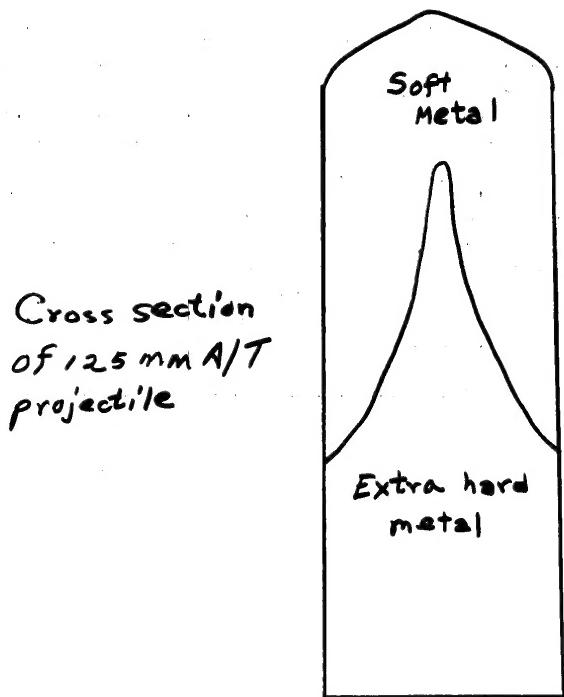
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3. The AT shells fired by this gun are of three types:
  - a. The shell of the type called "armor destroyer" (really very much like a naval armor-piercing projectile) has a rather blunt point of soft metal, which clings against the target. The interior of the projectile is of very hard metal, tempered at 1200 (presumably Centigrade). This penetrates the armor of a hostile tank.
  - b. Ordinary shell--not further described, but apparently the usual HE artillery shell.
  - c. Incendiary shell,
4. These shells are painted, to distinguish them from one another, as follows:
  - a. Armor-piercing projectile--three colors, red, yellow, and green bands superimposed.
  - b. Ordinary shell--yellow
  - c. Incendiary shell--yellow and red
5. Following is a sketch of the 125mm AT projectile



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